

Matthew J. Ohl
Remedial Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 5

January 2, 2013

Dear Mr. Ohl:

The Pines Town Council is in receipt of a copy of a letter you sent to Ms Kathy Luther at the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission on December 21, 2012, regarding radiation sampling in Pines. This matter is of grave concern to us as it involves the health of our citizens and the economic stability of our town. We would very much like to discuss this survey with you as early as possible, before field work is initiated, so that the information you collect will cover all our concerns thoroughly.

We believe this survey should include gamma-ray count rate measurements at the background, residential, private, and municipal sites found in the PINES Group's 2009 and 2012 surveys.

For these Background sites and where count rates exceed twice the background count rate, 15 centimeter deep cores (6 inches down from the ground surface) should be collected and analyzed to (1) determine the component(s) giving the elevated count rates and (2) determine by gamma spectroscopy the isotopic identity of the responsible radionuclides. These should include duplicates for at least 10% of the samples and duplicates for at least 10% of the spectroscopy measurements.

Should the isotopic analysis identify natural radionuclides, radiochemical analyses should be done for isotopic uranium, isotopic thorium, radium-226 and radium-228 to determine the respective concentrations. If other radionuclides are present, their concentrations should be determined by standardized laboratory analyses, such as those used by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Air and Radiation Environmental Laboratory.

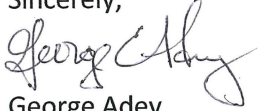
Since there is a strong likelihood that the radionuclides of concern are associated with coal combustion byproducts (CCB), we wish to see similar spectroscopy and radiochemical measurements on at least one flyash sample and at least one bottom ash sample obtained from the Michigan City Generating Station. If there are other components of CCB's at this station, these should be analyzed as well.

Since there is a potential that Yard 520 leachate radionuclides are found in Pines wells, at least 5 wells for Pines citizens now on bottled water should be analyzed for the components found in the drinking water regulations (Title 40, Part 141.66, Code of Federal Regulations). Pines well water samples have not been analyzed for several years. Such analyses should include at least one sample of municipal water coming from Michigan City (taken in Pines) and at least one sample of bottled water provided to a Pines citizen by the responsible parties. Duplicate samples of both would be beneficial.

Our overall concern is that if there is a radiation contamination problem in our community it should be defined as soon as possible and resolved as soon as possible. The assistance of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and its resources would be very beneficial in this regard.

If you have questions on this matter please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,



George Adey
Town Council President
Town of Pines



Cathi Murray
Town Council Vice President
Town of Pines



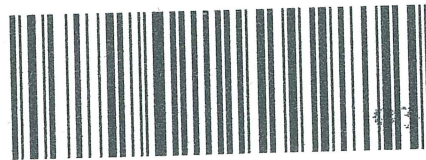
Vicki Kuzio
Town Council
Town of Pines

Cathi Murray

Exemption 6

RETURN RECEIPT
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